

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2008

WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

400 PHENIX AVENUE

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC SESSION: 7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order – 5:00 p.m. – Convene to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Laws PL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel (Special Education Assistant Directors and Directors) and PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation (possible litigation –Caruolo Action)

II. Executive Session

III. Call to Order – Public Session

IV. Roll Call / Quorum

V. Executive Session Minutes Sealed – April 7, 2008

VI. Minutes of Previous Meetings Approved – March 12, 2008 and March 17, 2008

VII. Public Acknowledgements / Communications

VIII. Chairperson Communications

IX. Superintendent Communications

X. School Committee Member Communications

XI. Public Hearing

a. Students (Agenda/Non-agenda Items)

b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)

XII. Consent Agenda / Consent Calendar

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO 08-4-1 – Whereas, the Cranston High School West Varsity Wrestling Team under the direction of Head Coach Matthew Claeson, Assistant Coach James Royal, and Volunteer Assistant Coach Rusty Calise, had an outstanding season in the Winter of 2007-2008, and

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Whereas, through their hard work and dedication during the off season as well as on the mat during the season, finished the

2007-2008 wrestling season with a dual meet record of 14-2, and

Whereas, through their continued hard work, outstanding team and individual performances were able to capture their third consecutive Rhode Island Interscholastic League Team State Championship at Rhode Island College which is currently the longest such streak in wrestling over the past two decades,

Be it RESOLVED that the following team members be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee, and

Be it further RESOLVED that they receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

**Jesse Alejandro Greg Gonzalez Michael Petrocelli Brandon Badolato
John Coleman Vince DelleFave Jared DiBiase Devon Dubuque
Steven Duran Bryan Fallens Eddy Fallens Alex Fraetas
Shawn Giblin Casey Melucci Nick O'Connell Alfred Raymond
William Russo Matthew Simonelli Gerrick Van Deusen Gregory
Wypyszinski**

**Corey Beaudoin Eric Beaudoin Anthony Catanzaro Ryan Dolan
Cory Giblin John Keogh Jason Kershaw Jared Lambert
Richard McMahon Joseph Patricio Louis Piacitelli Erick Sajche-Meza
David Soprano William Demers James Hatcher Wes Jochman
Sean Laporte Alex Odsen Derek Patalano Alex Pratt
Graham Thorpe Patrick Varone Frank Vasella**

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 08-4-2 – Whereas, Genevieve Cicerone, Kirsten Hart, Cathy Jimenez Long, Kelly Starliper, and Kathleen Torregrossa have earned the prestigious National Board of Professional Teaching Standards Certification, and

Whereas, these teachers have demonstrated by earning National Board certification that they have met the high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do. NBPTS certification is a national voluntary system certifying teachers who meet these rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self assessment and peer review, and

Whereas, as part of the process, these teachers built a portfolio that included student work samples, assignments, videotapes and a thorough analysis of their classroom teaching. Additionally, these teachers were assessed on their knowledge of the subjects they teach, and

Whereas, these teachers are committed to the five core propositions of National Board certification in their commitment to students and

**learning, knowing the subjects they teach and
how to teach them; are responsible for managing and monitoring
student learning, think systematically about their practice and learn
from experience; and are members of a learning community, and**

**Whereas, these teachers are among the forty-seven teachers who
earned certification in Rhode Island for the 2006-2007 school year,**

**Be it RESOLVED that these five teachers be recognized by the
Cranston School Committee for their outstanding accomplishments
in earning certification from the National Board of Professional
Teaching Standards, and**

**Be it further RESOLVED that each of these teachers be presented
with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston
School Committee.**

SPONSORED BY MR. LOMBARDI

**NO. 08-4-3 - Whereas, thirty-three students from the Cranston Area
Career & Technical Center distinguished themselves by winning
awards in the Rhode Island SkillsUSA Competitions presented at
Rhodes On-the Pawtuxet on Thursday, March 27, 2008, and**

**Whereas, the group included ten Bronze Medalists, thirteen Silver
Medalists and ten Gold Medalists, and**

Whereas, the Gold Medal winners and other qualifying winners will be eligible to compete in the National Skills Championships in Kansas City, Missouri, June 20 to June 27, 2008; and

Whereas, the following students have distinguished themselves at the State level by finishing in the top of their respective competitions:

Student	Place	Contest
Christopher Lussier	1st place	Action Skills
Giana Sacco	1st place	Advertising Design
Kristen Menna	1st place	Architectural Drafting
Michael Cate	1st place	Carpentry
Brian Burke	1st place	Electronics Applications
Stephanie Laorenza	2nd place	Graphic Communications
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Mikayla Flynn	2nd place	Health Knowledge Bowl
Stephanie Patriara	2nd place	Health Knowledge Bowl
Marissa Charelle	2nd place	Health Knowledge Bowl

Marybeth Dawson 2nd place Health Knowledge Bowl

Andrea Cerra 3rd place Preschool Teaching Assistant

Nadia Cricco 2nd place Preschool Teaching Assistant

Basirat Folami 3rd place Job Interview

Sherry Johnson 3rd place Job Skill “O”

Haley Pezza 2nd place Job Skill “O”

Tiffany Dellaventura 1st place Job Skill “O”

Gianna Velino 2nd place Prepared Speech

Josh Boccanfusco 3rd place Food and Beverage Service

Kayla Garafano 2nd place Food and Beverage Service

Joseph Saccoccia 3rd place Technical Drafting

Melissa Martinelli 3rd place CPR/First Aid

Vincent Shuele 2nd place Technical Math

Daniel Marble 1st place Technical Math

Evan Conti 3rd place Computer Maintenance

Kyle Agronick 1st place Computer Maintenance

Christina Liese 3rd place Customer Service

David Masulli 3rd place Medical Math

Brahim Elidrissi 3rd place Robotic Workcell

Erik Dellaposta 3rd place Robotic Workcell

Zackary D'Antonio 2nd place Robotic Workcell

Anthony Catanzaro 2nd place Robotic Workcell

Maria Briones 1st place Robotic Workcell

Tanya Wang 1st place Robotic Workcell

Be it RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee extend its congratulations to all of these students, Ms. Suzanne Coutu, Director of the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center, and to their teachers, Edd Spidell, Aimee Duarte, Albert DiFazio, Steven DeRosa, Steven Versacci, Martha Sylvestre, Michael Cornachione, Leonard Baker, Charlene Barbieri, Elaine

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Arbor, Jeanne Silva, Louis Giglietti, Regina Poethke, Donna Sousa, Janice Baker, William Carcieri, Harold Winstanley, Meaghan McGonagle, Jessica Palumbo, Lori Velino, and William Walker; and

Be it further RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution, signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee be presented to each successful student, teacher and advisor.

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 08-4-4 – Whereas, talented art students in grades seven through twelve in middle, junior and senior high schools of Rhode Island had an opportunity to win recognition for themselves and their school by participating in The Scholastic Art Awards of 2008, and

Whereas, this competition is sponsored regionally by Fidelity Investments in cooperation with the Rhode Island Art Education Association and Rhode Island College and conducted nationally by The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, and

Whereas, five single or collaborative entries per teacher were submitted in categories, which include digital imagery, drawing, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking sculpture, video and film, animation, ceramics and glass, computer art, and two-and-three-dimensional design. In addition, seniors could submit art and photography portfolios for possible scholarships and grant monies, and

Whereas, Leonardo DeLuzio, a senior at Cranston High School East, was a Fine Art Portfolio Nominee and awarded a Gold Key for his animation in the statewide competition, earning him the opportunity to compete in the national competition. There, he competed with finalists from over sixty other regions across the United States and garnered a Gold Key Award on the national level for his animation,

“What makes a wolf”. The 2008 Celebration Events will be held Thursday, June 5th, in New York City. The Awards Ceremony will be at Carnegie Hall and the National Art Exhibition will be held at three different prestigious New York City galleries, NYArts Gallery in Soho, Reeves Contemporary in Chelsea, and White Columns in Chelsea,

Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee congratulate Leonardo DeLuzio for bringing honor to himself and Cranston Public Schools, and

Be it further RESOLVED that Leonardo receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

NO. 08-4-5 – Whereas, Richard Cushman, a science teacher at Cranston High School East for the past eight years, has been recognized as the 2008 Rhode Island Chemistry Teacher of the Year, and

Whereas, this award is sponsored annually by the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Chemical Society and Richard will be honored at a ceremony to be held at Providence College on Sunday, April 27th, and

Whereas, Cranston High School East Science Department now has three award-winning teachers who have been recognized for outstanding science teaching,

Be it RESOLVED that Richard Cushman be congratulated for his dedication to teaching science to the students of Cranston High School East, and

Be it further RESOLVED that he receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

ADMINISTRATION

PERSONNEL

NO. 08-4-6 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified staff member be granted a leave of absence without compensation as provided in Article XIX, Section F of the Master Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and the Cranston Teachers' Alliance:

Elizabeth Smith, Occupational Therapist

Special Services

Effective Dates: August 2008 to June 2009

NO. 08-4-7 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following certified personnel be

accepted:

Elsa Viti, Teacher

Cranston High School East

Effective Date: June 30, 2008

Gail Jeschke, Teacher

Garden City School

Effective Date: June 30, 2008

NO. 08-4-8 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Richard M. Cournoyer, JROTC Instructor

Cranston High School East

Effective Date: June 30, 2008

Kara Lau, Teacher

Cranston High School East

Effective Date: March 28, 2008

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NO. 08-4-9 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the

Superintendent, the following individuals be reappointed as athletic coaches:

CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL WEST

Michael Soscia Head Girls' Lacrosse

Charles Pearson Assistant Girls' Lacrosse

Nicholas Ruggieri Head Freshman Baseball

Chris Sullivan Head Coed Golf

Roger Tow Head Boys' Volleyball

CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL EAST

Michael Walsh Head Baseball

Howard Chun Head Girls' Lacrosse

Brian Flinn Assistant Softball

HUGH B. BAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Danielle Bishop Head Softball

Keith Medbery Head Baseball

NO. 08-4-10 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individuals be appointed as athletic coaches:

Justin Zmed, Assistant Boys' Volleyball, Cranston High School East

Step – 3

Class – D

Playing Competition – High School/College

Experience – Park View Middle School Soccer; Special Olympics

Certification – Rhode Island Coaches Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid Certified

Thomas Ferri, Head Boys' Volleyball, Cranston High School East

Step – 3

Class – B

Playing Competition – High School/College

Experience – Cranston High School West Girls' Volleyball

Certification – Rhode Island Coaches' Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid Certified

NO. 08-4-11 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual be appointed as a volunteer coach:

Britney Dinofrio Cranston High School West Softball

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NO. 08-4-12- RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified staff member be granted a

leave of absence without compensation as provided in the Working Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and NAGE Local RI 155:

Roslyn Patalano, Cook Manager

Food Service

Effective Dates: April 2008 to April 2009

NO. 08-4-13 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as a substitute on a temporary basis as needed:

SECRETARY

Robin Whitney

NO. 08-4-14 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Lorraine Coutu, Teacher Assistant

Gladstone School

Effective Date: June 30, 2008

NO. 08-4-15 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignations of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Donna Howcroft, Bus Monitor

Transportation

Effective Date: March 6, 2008

Gianni Petteruti, Technical Assistant

Cranston Area Career & Technical Center

Effective Date: March 24, 2008

NO. 08-4-16 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of non-certified Employee A be accepted.

NO. 08-4-17 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of non-certified Employee B be accepted.

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GRANTS

NO. 08-4-18 - RESOLVED, that the Cranston Public Schools submit the following grants:

Donors Choose

Project AccuCut \$899.00

Norwood Avenue 18-21 Year-Old Program

POLICY AND PROGRAM

NO. 08-4-19 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Conference/Field Trip of Long Duration be authorized:

MSG (Ret) Michael E. Allen, JROTC Drill Team Coach, and approximately twenty students to travel to Fresh Meadows, New York and West Point, New York to participate in the 2nd ROTC Brigade Drill Competition from Saturday, April 12, 2008 through Sunday, April 13, 2008.

Leonard S. Baker, Jr., a teacher at the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center, and thirty-five students to travel to Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts from April 25, 2008 to attend and participate in the Massachusetts Maritime Academy Environmental Symposium.

Gayle Dzekevich, Assistant Director of the Alternate Education Program, and Margaret Chatellier, teacher at the Alternate Education Program, to travel to St. Louis, Missouri to attend the Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE) Show Me Success Conference from April 28, 2008 to May 1, 2008.

TABLED RESOLUTION

NO. 08-3-15 – RESOLVED, that Policy No. 5113, Student Attendance for Middle and High School, and accompanying regulations be amended for first reading. (2)

XIII. Action Calendar / Action Agenda

XIV. New Business

XV. Public Hearing on Non-agenda Items

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XVI. Announcement of Future Meetings

XVII. Adjournment

School Committee members who are unable to attend this meeting

are asked to notify the Chairman in advance.

Any changes in the agenda pursuant to RIGL 42-46-6(e) will be posted on the school district's web site at www.cpsed.net, Cranston Public Schools' administration building, 845 Park Ave., Cranston, RI; and Cranston City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, RI and will be electronically filed with the Secretary of State at least forty-eight hours (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

Notice Posted: Cranston Herald / Thursday, April 3, 2008

STUDENTS 5113(a)

MINIMUM ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Students in Middle and High School must be in regular attendance for a minimum of 90% of their course work per quarter. Students with excessive (more than five (5) unexcused class absences) will have their term grade reduced by 10 points of their quarterly grade. Students enrolled in minor classes (3 meetings per cycle) will receive a 10 point deduction for more than three (3) unexcused class absences. Students in Middle School in Unified Arts classes will receive a 10 point deduction for more than 3 unexcused class absences.

The following shall not be considered absences and shall not count against students:

- **Absence from class due to in-school or out-of-school suspension**
- **Absence from class due to attendance at school-sponsored events**
- **Absence from class due to attendance at scheduled meetings with school personnel**
- **Absences from class due to religious observance**

The following excused absences determined by the regulations of the Truancy Court:

- **Illness confirmed by a Doctor's note within 2 days of return to school**
- **Dental appointments confirmed by a Dentist's note within 2 days of return to school**
- **Family bereavement confirmed with a newspaper obituary or death notice**
- **Legal/court obligations confirmed by a note from the courts**
- **Verifiable college and military appoints, prior permission from the Guidance Department and appointment verification forms are required (High School)**

All notes must be submitted within two days of the student's return to school.

Students that have absences exempted from counting against the 90% minimum requirement are still required to complete and turn in all make-up work missed due to their absence.

ABSENCE, TARDINESS AND DISMISSALS

1. Parents should call the school at 270-8049 for Cranston West, 270-8126 for Cranston East, 270-8030 for Western Hills, 270-8090 for Park View, or 270-8010 for Hugh B. Bain to report a student's absence.

STUDENTS 5113(b)

ABSENCE, TARDINESS AND DISMISSALS (CONTINUED)

2. Students who are absent or suspended will not be allowed to report to school or to attend any school activity during the period of absence or suspension.

3. If a student is absent (unexcused) from a class or classes in excess of five (5) times per quarter, the teacher will lower the student's quarterly grade by ten points.

4. Absences or dismissals by the school nurse are considered excused.

5. Family vacations during school time will not be excused by the School Committee Policy unless previously approved by the school department.

6. Parents wishing to appeal an attendance-related grade reduction should submit a written appeal to the Administration in the following order: Assistant Principal, Principal, Superintendent, and School

Committee.

7. Excessive tardiness to school is unacceptable. Students who accumulate more than three (3) unexcused tardies per semester will receive detention for each subsequent tardy according to school department policy. Should excessive tardiness become a serious or chronic problem, a student may be assigned Alternate Discipline Program, could be suspended out of school, Saturday Detention, or receive social probation. All days tardy beyond the 3 per semester will result in disciplinary consequences unless excused with verifiable documentation (i.e., doctor's note, dental note, legal obligation, etc.). All notes must be submitted on the day the student is tardy or least by the next school day.

A student who arrives late to class more than half way through the class, regardless of the class, will be considered absent from that class.

8. Students with unexcused tardies after 11:00 am are considered absent and are ineligible to participate in athletics or extra curricular activities on that day. Should the tardiness occur on the last day before a weekend, the student will be likewise, ineligible to participate in school related activities or athletics.

9. Personal family appointments, which can be scheduled during non-school hours, will be included in absence and tardy totals.

10. The classroom teacher will assign students who are tardy to class without an acceptable or verifiable reason appropriate disciplinary action. Students who are habitually tardy will be referred to the administration.

11. Students who miss a class period or a whole day of school without permission will be considered truant. All students who are determined to be truant will be subject to disciplinary action and will receive no credit (zero) for all work missed or due during the truancy.

STUDENTS

5113(c)

ABSENCE, TARDINESS AND DISMISSALS (CONTINUED)

12. Students may be dismissed from school with a parental note, with an acceptable reason. All dismissals will be excused only with verifiable documentation by a doctor, dentist, legal obligation, death, religious observance, etc. These notes from verifiable sources or appointment verification forms must be turned in to the Main Office by the next school day that the student is present.

13. Students dismissed from school are ineligible to participate in athletics or extra curricular activities on that day or the ensuing weekend should it occur on the day before a weekend. Students may be allowed to participate in these situations with administrative approval.

14. For eligibility purposes with respect to extra curricular activities and athletics, students dismissed for medical, dental, legal appointments, etc., must have such dismissal pre-approved by an administrator or designee. Upon the student's return to school from the appointment, verification documentation must be turned in to the office or to the coach or activity advisor, if school has ended, to be eligible to participate (parental notes will not suffice.) Any student clinically dismissed by the nurse due to illness may not return to school and is ineligible to participate in athletics or school activities.

MAKE UP POLICY

A student absent from school from one (1) to three (3) days will have one (1) class meeting per absence to make up missed work beginning on the initial day they return to school.

For students absent or suspended from school for a period of more than three (3) days, school work may be requested by the parent/guardian. A twenty-four (24) hour notice for such requests is required and will be made available by teachers through the main office. Students suspended from school will be allowed to make up all work as dictated by this policy.

In the event that a student is absent on the day a long-term project/assignment is due, the grade for that assignment will be

reduced at the discretion of the teacher. Should the student submit verifiable documentation for the absence (medical, dental note, etc.), the grade reduction may be waived.

Serious long-term illness make-up will be made up at the discretion of the teacher(s) and guidance counselor.

Any student that makes arrangements with a teacher to make-up work at an arranged time and fails to do so will be assigned a zero (0) for the work in question.

STUDENTS **5113(d)**

FINAL EXAMS (HIGH SCHOOL)

A. Final exams are required in every course in grades 9 through 12. The final exam grade for each course will be weighted 15% of the final grade.

B. An exam schedule is published in June. Senior high school students are expected to report for their scheduled final exams and must remain in the exam room for the entire period. Depending on the schedule, students may be dismissed following their exams.

ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR EXAMS (HIGH SCHOOL)

- 1. Final exams will be administered in all courses. Seniors with a grade point average of 90 or above may be exempt from their final exam in the courses with that average.**
- 2. Should a student be tardy to an exam without an excuse or prior administrative approval, he/she will be admitted to the exam and allowed to take the exam during the remaining time in the exam period only.**
- 3. If a student is going to be absent from an exam and wishes to be granted the opportunity to take a make-up exam, a parent must contact the administration in writing or by phone (Main Office) prior to the start of the exam.**
- 4. If a student is absent from an exam and the administration has not been contacted in advance, the student will not be given a make-up exam and will receive a grade of zero.**
- 5. Make-up exams will be given at a time to be determined by the teacher.**
- 6. All students must remain in the testing site until the conclusion of the exam period.**

Regulations Adopted: March 20, 1972 CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Regulations Revised: August 20, 1990 Cranston, Rhode Island

Regulations Revised: July 16, 2007

Resolution No.: 07-7-21

Regulations Revised:

Resolution No.: